



# **Task Force Report on Care for Victims of Sexual Assault**

Overview Briefing  
May 13, 2004

# **Secretary Rumsfeld's February 5, 2004 Direction**

- **Review how the department handles treatment of and care for victims of sexual assault, with particular attention to any special issues that may arise from the circumstances of a combat theater**
- **Address reporting of sexual assaults, including availability of private channels for reporting in combat theaters**
- **Consider what briefings may need to be given to deploying and redeploying service members**
- **Report due within 90 days**

# **Task Force Charter**

- **Review DoD, Services, and Combatant Commands' sexual assault policies/programs**
- **Determine DoD-wide rate and major characteristics of reported sexual assaults for calendar years 2002 and 2003**
- **Assess if care and support provided to victims was timely and effective—in US and in CENTCOM Area of Operation**
- **Recommend any necessary changes**

# Task Force Review

- Analyzed sexual assault incidence, demographics, and disposition data from Services
- Evaluated sexual assault policy and program information from OSD, Services, and Combatant Commands
- Visited 8 US installations (two per Service) and 10 CENTCOM sites (Kuwait and Iraq)
- Conducted VTCs with three PACOM Sites (Korea)
- Personal contact with more than 1,300 individuals

# Findings

## Broadly Characterized

- **DoD policies and standards need to focus on sexual assault**
- **Services' stovepipe policies need to be integrated for effective prevention and response**
- **Commanders need guidance, resources and emphasis on prevention and response**
- **Victim response capabilities need more resources and uniform guidance**
- **Efforts to hold offenders accountable need to be made more transparent**



# Recommendations

- **Establish a single point of accountability for addressing sexual assault matters**
- **Discuss leadership responsibilities at May Combatant Commanders Conference**
- **Fill gaps in sexual assault information through DoD-wide communication outlets**
- **Convene a summit to develop strategic courses of action on critical, unresolved issues**

# Recommendations

- **Develop DoD policies for prevention, reporting, response, and accountability**
- **Establish an Armed Forces Sexual Assault Advisory Council**
- **Provide manpower and fiscal resources to implement required policies and standards**
- **Develop an integrated strategy for sexual assault data collection**
- **Establish program evaluation, quality improvement, and oversight mechanisms**